POPULATION TODAY

Vol. 15, No. 12 December 1987

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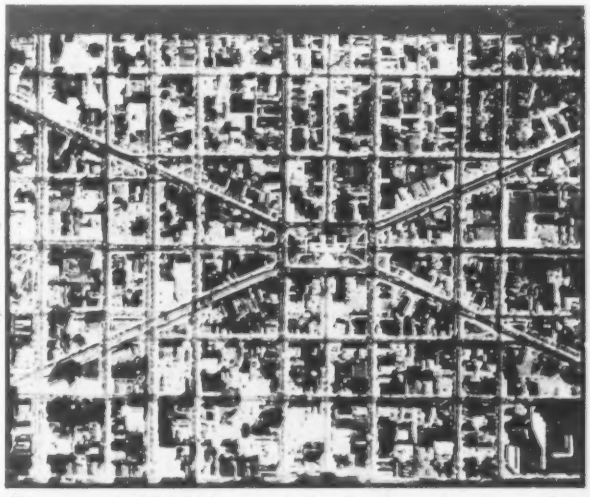

Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

76 percent of the U.S. population live in metro areas. (See page 4.)

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Call it Populandia. Call it 10 years old.

As the Holiday Season commences, the world's most famous mythical mini-continent is completing its first decade of population growth.

In August 1978, amid spectacular volcanic convulsions, a new Pacific island erupted from the ocean floor. Starting Jan. 1, 1978, this 160,000 sq. mile patch of *nouveau* real estate became the country of destination for all earth's natural increase (the "surplus" of births over deaths; i.e., 64 percent of all births).

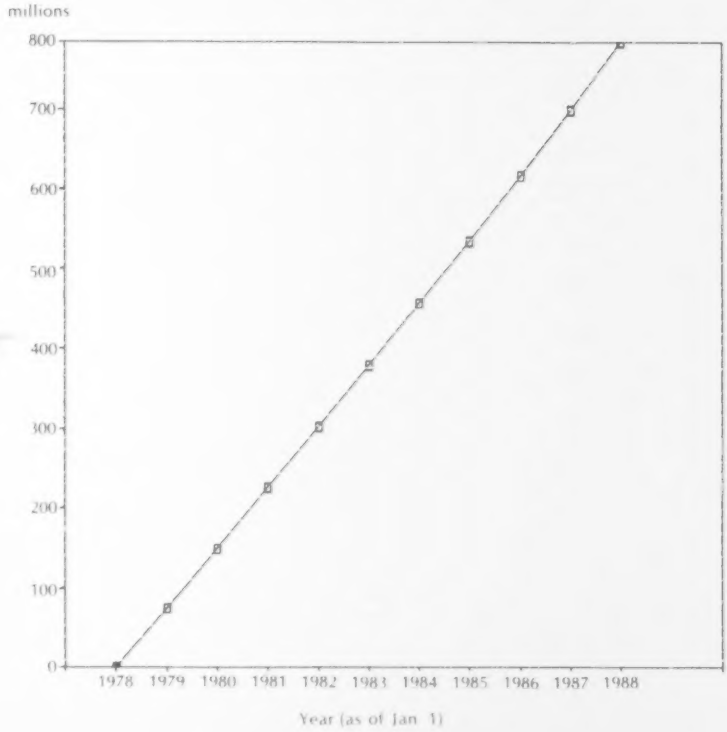
The rest, as they say, is history – a history doggedly related in past issues of *PT* (see December 1986 issue). A veritable battalion of babies descended on Populandia: initially 200,677 per day in 1978, but increasing year by year until, during every day this past year, another 234,088 tots have arrived from all the world's countries to boost the island's youthful totals.

Today 789,686,740 Populandians are alive and thriving. The island nation that began with the arrival of a single child now contains one out of every seven earthlings. For Populandia, only one national motto will do: Excelsior!

– Art Haupt

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

10 Years of Populandia: Out of Sight



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PRB MEMBERSHIP

In addition to POPULATION TODAY, PRB members receive annually four in-depth POPULATION BULLETINS, two wall charts (the WORLD and UNITED STATES POPULATION DATA SHEETS), the quarterly population education newsletter, INTERCHANGE, with two accompanying teaching modules, and POPULATION TRENDS AND PUBLIC POLICY papers as they appear.

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No Adjustment for the 1990 Census

The 1990 Census will not be adjusted to compensate for any calculated undercount.

That decision, long awaited, culminates months of debate on how to resolve the undercount problem, considering the ever-increasing use of census figures in entitlement and other programs, as well as its constitutionally mandated purpose as the basis for the decennial apportionment of Congressional seats.

The 1980 Census, considered the most accurate ever, is calculated to have undercounted the U.S. population – by a factor of 1.0 to 2.2 percent, according to Bureau studies. No adjustment was made for this undercount; like baseball, census enumeration is not overruled by instant-replay analysis.

The magnitude of undercount is largely affected by minority populations. Because of the unequal distribution of these populations, the accuracy of the census would likely vary from place to place. A number of mayors and members of Congress, fearful of their jurisdictions being shortchanged, have urged that census results be subject to later "correction."

But in Washington, Oct. 30, the Commerce Dept. announced that decennial census figures would not be revised. (The Bureau's parent entity, not the Bureau itself, made the announcement, which was considered unusual.)

"Adjustment," Commerce Under Secretary Robert Ortner announced,

> "No matter how careful," adjustment would "raise suspicions in the public mind"
> —Under Secretary Robert Ortner

"creates more problems than it solves." He argued that any post hoc modification of results was "unlikely to improve on the 99 percent or better [census] count which we expect to achieve"; and that "no matter how careful and unbiased the adjustment process is, it will raise suspicions in the public mind about the reliability and integrity of the census and of the Federal statistical system."

Moreover, Ortner warned, "Adjusting the count may create the appearance of changing the numbers to achieve a desired political outcome by the party in office."

Prior to the decision, the Bureau had indicated that it was prepared to make adjustments after the April 1, 1990, census had been conducted and the "final" census count issued. The procedure would have been to conduct a huge, 300,000-household survey on June 1, 1990, and cross-check the discrepancies between that survey and the census to isolate the inaccuracies in each. On the basis of the survey, the decennial census results would have ultimately been changed.

Because the decennial census is used to apportion Congress, the count has important political consequences. And before the decision was announced, specialists had been doubtful (as Ortner acknowledged) as to whether it would be possible to choose a single, widely accepted undercount adjustment method that would be litigation proof (for there undoubtedly could not be high-, medium-, and low-variant Congresses).

– A.H.

Black Fertility Trends in the 1980s

In the 1980s, the U.S. black population has continued to increase, but the growth patterns of this major group are changing.

In the 1970s, American blacks increased as a proportion of the U.S. population, from 11.1 percent in 1970 to 11.8 percent in 1980. For 1986, the Census Bureau estimates a black population of 29.4 million, 12.2 percent of the total population.

The black population has continued to grow faster (an average of 1.5 percent annually, 1980-1985) than the white population (0.8 percent). Nevertheless, the proportional increase of this population has grown only slowly during the 1980s, as its fertility rates continued to fall (the total fertility rate declined from 2.30 total children per woman in 1980 to 2.15 in 1984), coming closer to convergence with whites (whose own TFR inched downward from 1.75 to 1.72 during the same period).

At the same time, the proportion of the nonwhite population that is black is edging downward. William O'Hare, PRB's Director of Policy Analysis, points out that in 1960, blacks made up 69.1 percent of the minority population, but by 1985, that figure had fallen to 55.1 percent.

The median age of the black population has been consistently about six years younger than that of whites, reflecting the higher fertility and lower life expectancy of blacks compared to whites. Both populations have aged since the crest of the baby boom, with blacks' median age rising from 24.9 years in 1980 to 26.3 years in 1984.

With the aging of the baby boom have come age-structure changes; the black school-age population (ages 5-17) has actually declined by 1.6 percent between 1970 and 1986. Meanwhile, there is a resurgence in the under-5 group, which has grown by 10.7 percent from 1980-1986. This was due to the baby-boom "echo" (as baby boomers swell the proportion of the population of reproductive age and have their own babies).

– A.H.

Metro U.S.A. Data Sheet

Some 76 percent of the U.S. population lives in the nation's 281 metropolitan areas (designated CMSAs or MSAs).

What 281 areas where? PRB's newest wall chart has the answers. The *Metro U.S.A.* Data Sheet lists all the U.S. metro areas, from Number 281, Enid, Okla. (62,900 population, as of 1986) all the way up to Number One, the New York metro area (17,967,800 population).

During the 1980-1986 period, U.S. metro areas grew by 4.5 percent, as compared to 3.4 percent for the national population outside MSAs. The most dramatically rapid urban growth occurred in the Sunbelt. Specifically, of the fastest growing 20 metro areas, 9 were in Florida and 6 in Texas. Naples, Fla., mushroomed the most, growing by 41.2 percent to 121,400.

In terms of absolute numbers of increase, the growth of the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside CMSA dwarfed the rest of the country's urban areas (even though it grew by "only" 13.7 percent during the 1980s and has slowed compared to previous boom years). This metro area grew by nearly 1.6 million population; the second largest increase recorded was 725,000 by Dallas-Ft. Worth.

A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is a county or group of counties that contains either a city of 50,000 or an urbanized area of 50,000 or more and a total population of 100,000 or more.

A Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) is a large urban area that contains 1 million or more population (i.e., an MSA) and also includes a Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), a smaller metro subarea.

PRB members receive their copies of the *Metro U.S.A. Data Sheet* in the same mailing as this *Population Today*. Additional copies of the Data Sheet can be ordered from the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., Circulation Dept. P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB. Prices are $2.00 ea., 2-10, $1.75 ea., 11-50, $1.50 ea., over 50, $1.25 ea. Orders for $50 or less must be prepaid and include $1.00 for postage and handling.

Three out of four Americans reside in metropolitan areas.

The Saga of Projections

Next to censuses, there is probably no more popular demographic product than population projections: Government officials and business people know they cannot plan for the future without having some grasp of the size and character of tomorrow's population.

Whether it's the size of the world population in 2020 (7.992 billion, according to PRB's *World Population Data Sheet*), or the size of Idaho's population in 2035 (1.4 million, the Census Bureau projects), to end users of population data, projections may seem like magic prognostications – the crystal ball where tomorrow can be glimpsed today.

But in this world, there is no such thing as a crystal ball; the future hasn't happened yet. And projections can serve only as models of possible futures rooted in today's data and events, as Carl Haub observes in the latest *Population Bulletin*, "Understanding Population Projections."

Projections come in many forms. Haub shows how projections can be calculated, from the straightforward growth rate method to the cohort-component method, assuming changes or continuations in fertility, mortality, or migration. There is no single absolute method of projection; but although the Census Bureau puts out projections in as many as 30 variants, it's the "medium variant" that gets play as fact.

Further, in the best of circumstances, projections are still only as good as the original data behind them. Even censuses – the mother lode of population data – can vary in their accuracy, and the farther in the past they lie, the more interim surveys and projections must take up the slack. Likewise, the sources for vital data concerning fertility and mortality, on which population statistics depend so much, vary greatly in quantity.

Perhaps, as demographer Leon Bouvier once commented, there is no such thing as an erroneous *projection* (assuming the math has been correctly performed). What are crucial are the suppositions that get plugged into these calculations. Profound misunderstandings about the results could be avoided if calculated future figures were called results of assumptions instead of projections.

Copies of Haub's 44-page *Population Bulletin*, "Understanding Population Projections," can be ordered from PRB, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB. Prices are $4.00 per single copy; 2-10 copies, $3.00 each; 11-50 copies, $2.50 each; over 50, $2.00 each. Orders for $50 or less must be prepaid and include $1.00 for postage and handling.

Population by Satellite

"I am a firm believer that African families ... are beginning to realize that it is not just a large family that they want, but a family that is healthy, a family that is educated, and a family that can stand in the sun." So commented Dr. Frederick T. Sai, Population Adviser to the World Bank, during PRB's first-ever international satellite teleconference Oct. 8.

Using space-age technology, PRB's IMPACT project staged a news conference between health experts and government leaders attending an international conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and journalists in Washington.

Panels of journalists interviewed world leaders via satellite, asking questions about health and family planning issues. The interviewees were all in Nairobi attending the "Better Health for Women and Children Through Family Planning" international conference October 5-9.

Besides Dr. Sai, formerly of Ghana's Ministry of Health, the interviewees included Jamaican Minister of Social Security Mavis Gilmour; Pramilla Senanayake of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Miguel Trias, Executive Director of PROFAMILIA in Colombia; and Duff Gillespie, chief of the Office of Population at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Reporters included columnists Georgie Anne Geyer and Ray Cromley; Scott Simon of National Public Radio; Ian Steele of the Press Foundation of Asia; Barbara Pyle of Turner Broadcasting Systems; Adebisi Olawunmi, News Agency of Nigeria; George Gedda of the Associated Press; Paula Wolfson of the Voice of America; Luis Covarrubias of UPI's Spanish News Network; and Hedayat Abdel Nabi of Egypt's *Al Ahram*. The program host and executive producer was Michael J. Marlow. The broadcast was made possible by the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization's project SHARE, and was produced by Winthrop P. Carty and the staff of IMPACT.

—J.A.

SURVEY REPORT

Ecuador

The preliminary report from Ecuador's 1987 Demographic and Health Survey shows that fertility is continuing to decline, but that more family planning and basic health services are needed. The survey of 4,711 women 15 to 49 years of age was conducted between January and March 1987. The third such survey on family planning issues since 1979, it provides valuable data on trends in fertility and contraceptive use.

About one-half of Ecuador's 10 million inhabitants live along a humid coastal region dominated by the congested port city, Guayaquil. Between 1975 and 1979, the nation's total fertility rate (TFR) was about 5.4 lifetime births per woman, but this fell to an average of 4.3 children – a 19 percent drop – from 1982 to 1987, according to the survey. As further evidence of fertility decline, the average number of children born to women 45 to 49 years of age in 1987 was 6.0, compared to 6.7 for women 45 to 49 in 1979.

About two-thirds of the women in unions said they did not want to have any more children, and one-fifth said they would prefer to wait two or more years before another pregnancy. Generally, women with higher fertility were most likely to say they wanted to avoid another pregnancy: 84 percent of the women with 3 or 4 children did not want any more children, compared to less than one-half of the women with 2 or fewer children.

Compared to the 1982 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, family planning use by Ecuadoran women increased only slightly by 1987, from 40 percent to 44 percent of the currently in-union women of reproductive age. The pill is slightly less popular than before, possibly because of fear of adverse health effects. Concern for health effects was the major reason women listed for discontinuing contraceptive use.

Female sterilization and the IUD are the most popular family planning methods, chosen respectively by 34 percent of married and 22 percent of in-union women who use contraceptives. The pill, used by 19 percent of respondents, was the third choice. Natural family planning is gaining wider acceptance and was practiced by about 6 percent of the couples in 1987, accounting for 14 percent of all birth control use. The condom and male sterilization, exclusively male methods, are rarely used. Only 18 percent of the women surveyed said they knew vasectomy was a family planning option, and only 47 percent were familiar with condoms.

Contraceptive use was much higher in Ecuador's coastal and urban areas than in its rural and mountainous regions. Still, the most dramatic difference in use was by education. Lack of fluency in Spanish, the official language, is an additional barrier to the knowledge and use of family planning for illiterate women (many of whom speak only Indian languages). Only 19 percent of illiterate women used family planning, less than half the rate for women with at least some primary education, and one-third of the rate for college-educated women.

Nearly 70 percent of women with a child under age 5 had received prenatal care. Nonetheless, about 40 percent of the children had suffered from diarrhea and 56 percent from fever within the two weeks preceding the survey. While incidence of illness was slightly higher in the rural areas where lack of services might be a factor, education of mother was the variable most closely associated with children's illness. Lack of education is associated with higher morbidity because of a variety of factors including poor living standards, limited access to medical services, and poor sanitary health practices.

—M.K.

SDA Meets in Atlanta

The newly named Southern Demographic Association (formerly the Southern Regional Demographic Group) held its annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 14-16. The SDA is a scientific and educational organization comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies.

New officers were elected, including new President-elect Julie Martin (of University of Virginia's Tayloe-Murphy Institute) and new board member William O'Hare of PRB.

At the business meeting the members agreed that the SDA would embark on several efforts to expand membership and raise the Association's profile. A brochure is being prepared describing the organization, whose members are concentrated (though not exclusively) in the South.

The next annual meeting of SDA will be held Oct. 19-21, 1988, in San Antonio, Tex.

Speidel PCC President

J. Joseph Speidel, a longtime leader in public and private population program efforts, has been elected president of the Population Crisis Committee (PCC), a Washington-based nonprofit organization advocating voluntary family planning worldwide.

Dr. Speidel served at the U.S. Agency for International Development for 14 years, directing its population research program, and then served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of Population before becoming Vice President of PCC in 1983.

He succeeds Dr. Fred Pinkham, who after 10 years as president of PCC is leaving to assume the position of Associate Director of the Institute of Population and Resources at Stanford University. The new Institute will feature interdisciplinary graduate degree programs, research, and faculty and student exchanges with less developed countries in the fields of population, environment, resources and development.

SOFTWHERE

From Great Lakes Software come two impressive new Population Data Base Retrieval Systems; The Social Science Tool Kit: World and The Social Science Tool Kit: States. These programs run on the Apple II+, IIc, or IIe series and are intended for sixth grade through high school students.

The Social Studies Tool Kit introduces students to new dimensions on the information age not available through textbooks. With the charting, graphing, mapping and calculation capabilities, the user can process information in an almost limitless way to explore many analytic questions. The World Tool Kit contains over 80 files of data information on two disks, and users can add their own data. Its file categories include data on Population and Vital Statistics, Climate and Geography, Education, Health Care, Religion, Transportation and Communication, Government, Economics, and Crime. The 151 countries are grouped into 5 regions and 13 subregions. The States Tool Kit contains similar data and categories for the 50 U.S. states.

Each kit sells for $89. Annual updated supplements are planned. For further information, contact: Great Lakes Software, Box 8756, Green Bay, Wis. 54308.

– D.L.

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of August 1, 1987	243,979,000
As of August 1, 1986	241,784,000

The above estimates, the latest available, include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 1012.

Estimated World Population:

As of December 1987	5,069,000,000
Annual growth	87,000,000

Estimated by extrapolation from the mid-1987 population on PRB's *World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: July 1987

	12 months ending with July					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1987	1986	1987	1986	1985	1984
Live births	3,772,000	3,732,000	15.6	15.5	15.7	15.5
Deaths	2,104,000	2,094,000	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.6
Natural increase	1,668,000	1,638,000	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9
Marriages	2,433,000	2,406,000	10.0	10.0	10.3	10.4
Divorces	1,163,000	1,173,000	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0
Infant deaths	37,900	39,400	10.1	10.6	10.6	10.7
Population base (in millions)			242.4	240.1	237.5	235.0

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 36, No. 7) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

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WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE
Global population pressures accelerating ecological deterioration (Apr. p. 9)

YOUNG URBAN PROFESSIONALS
Will the Yuppie Era ever end? [From the Editor's Desk] (Oct. p. 2)

—Compiled by Tracey Smith

TAKE A NUMBER

The Eyes Have It: What's next, a survey of "couch potato" fertility? Singapore in the last two years has become officially concerned about its low birth rate, after a very successful two-decade family planning program brought fertility down to replacement level. Too much TV is now blamed for too few children. A government-sponsored forum on low fertility has suggested that couples are spending excessive amounts of time before the tube and concluded that "by the time they are through with the programmes, they are too tired to do anything else." That, along with soap operas depicting childless cohabitation and delayed childbearing, are helping keep the birth rate low. The forum did, however, cite other factors, such as many parents' view that they could better provide for fewer children.

From the Census Bureau: San Diego and Dallas have joined the ranks of U.S. cities of 1 million or more population in 1986, bringing to eight the number of demographic millionaires. There are 182 cities with at least 100,000 residents since Scottsdale, Ariz., Plano and Brownsville, Tex., Hayward, Inglewood, and Orange, Calif., and Pueblo, Colo., joined the list and Davenport, Iowa, left it. Florida remains the "oldest" state with a median age of 36.0 years, compared to the national average of 31.7 in 1986, while high-fertility Utah is the youngest, with a median age of 25.5. 64.8 million Americans voted in the 1986 Congressional elections, down 3 million from the 1982 election; only 46 percent exercised their right to vote. Of the younger voters, ages 18-24, blacks had the highest percent voting, 25.1, whites were next with 21.6, and Hispanics had a turnout of 11.6 percent.

Eire Emigrants: *The Economist* reports that an unemployment-driven exodus has caused a major outflow from Ireland once again and that the country's population is decreasing as a result. About 30,000 are expected to leave this year, most of them in their 20s, and a total of 500,000 are expected to leave over the next 25 years. The emigration will probably benefit Ireland, as about 76,000 new jobs must be found in the next decade just to maintain the present unemployment rate of 20 percent.

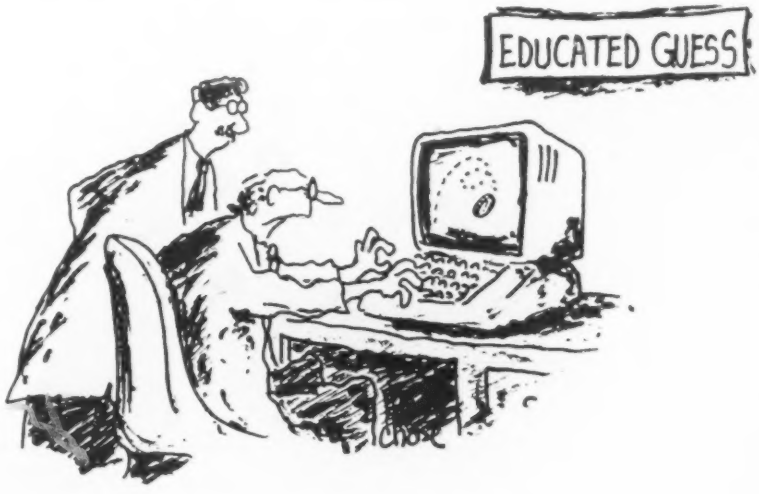
News From ESCAP: The UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reports the following: Malaysia has settled upon a new population policy designed to achieve replacement level fertility by the year 2070 and to attain an eventual population size of 70 million (from about 17 million today). Pakistan has set a goal of reducing the crude birth rate to 36 per 1,000 in 1988 (from 40 in 1983), partly to offset expected declines in the crude death rate. Vietnam would like to reduce the population growth rate to below 1.7 percent by 1990, but a serious lack of facilities for family planning is hampering those efforts. and Australia sees immigration as a solution to problems caused by its aging population. (Immigrants are usually young persons.)

Many *PT* Readers received a brief survey in the October publications mailing. With the feedback of such questionnaires, PRB aims to keep improving the usefulness and editorial content of its publications.

If you have not already done so, we would appreciate your taking a few moments to complete the survey and return it in the stamped, preaddressed envelope included in that mailing. Thanks!

—*C.H.*

ADDENDA



Science, drawing by John Chase, reprinted by permission.

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

A DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STUDY CENTERS, RESEARCH PROGRAMS, AND LIBRARY RESOURCES, compiled by Diana Zimmerman et al. Staten Island, N.Y.: Center for Migration Studies, 1987. 299 pages. $35.00. ISBN 0-934733-18-X.

The Center for Migration Studies has compiled a worldwide directory of information on migration study centers, research programs, and library resources. Its goals: to help facilitate the exchange of information among groups conducting research; help documentation specialists, reference librarians, researchers, and policymakers identify the sources generating migration-related materials; and gain some measure of bibliographic control over a rapidly expanding field of inquiry.

The directory lists 279 organizations, agencies, committees, research programs, and specialized libraries, plus migration study institutes, information clearinghouses and documentation centers, demographic research institutes publishing frequently on migration and refugee topics, centers for the study of bilingualism; and ethnic and minority study centers including those engaged in studying immigration history, immigration law, and policy.

All entries are accessible through a hierarchical, alphabetic arrangement (continent, country, and center/program). There are two indexes: geography and title. The majority of entries are for North America and Western Europe. The compilers have provided a sample questionnaire so that the directory's users can send in additional entries.

Specialized directories of this scope from the noncommercial sector have previously been nonexistent. Couple the uniqueness of this one with the timeliness of the entries and the high reputation of the Center's publications, and one has a reference work that rightfully should appear at the top of acquisitions lists for institutions and individuals who need ready access to migration and refugee data sources.

– Denise Dowdell

BASIC DATA ON FERTILITY IN THE PROVINCES OF CHINA, 1940-82, by Ansley J. Coale and Chen Sheng Li. Honolulu, Hawaii: Papers of the East-West Population Institute #104, January 1987, 366 pages, $5.00. ISBN 0-86638-088-4.

This book presents the results of computations of age- and marriage duration-specific fertility rates for China's 28 provinces based on the 1-per-1,000 sample conducted under the auspices of the State Family Planning Commission in 1982. Most of the volume consists of the 168 tables presenting rates derived from retrospective fertility data from the survey for each province, and where possible, for rural and urban areas of provinces. Fertility rates are presented for five-year age and duration intervals for as many years in the 1940-1982 period as the data would permit.

A brief introduction describes the methodology of the calculations and provides summary tables and charts highlighting their most prominent features, principally the dip in fertility during the late 1950s corresponding to the Great Leap Forward, the spike in rates during the early 1960s, and the downward trend of the 1970s. Data on the mean age of first marriage for women show a rise from around 18 in the 1940s to 23 in the late 1970s. A useful volume for those interested in China's population.

– Thomas W. Merrick

Books Received

THE ECOLOGY OF RACE AND CLASS IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA: 1980, by Donald J. Bogue and David J. Hartmann. Chicago, Ill.: Community and Family Study Center, University of Chicago, 1987. 352 pages. $14.95 paperback.

HANDBOOK OF AGING AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (2nd ed.), edited by Robert H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985. 809 pages. $69.95.

HANDBOOK OF DEMOGRAPHICS FOR MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: Sources and Trends on the U.S. Consumer, by William Lazer. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1987. 211 pages.

PROPOSED REFUGEE ADMISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1988, Report to Congress, by U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, September 1987. 38 pages.

SOCIAL SECURITY AREA POPULATION PROJECTIONS: 1987 (Actuarial Study No. 99), by Alice Wade. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Actuary, Social Security Administration, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, August 1987. 43 pages.

A TIME-ALLOCATION STUDY ON RURAL WOMEN: An Analysis of Productive and Reproductive Roles, by Amara Soonthorndhada et al. (IPSR Publication No. 105) Thailand: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, January 1987. 83 pages.

TECHNICAL PROSPECTS AND POPULATION TRENDS, edited by Thomas Espenshade and George J. Stolnitz. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1987. (AAAS Selected Symposium, #103) 211 pages. $19.95 paper.

WORLD REFUGEE REPORT, by U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau for Refugee Programs. Washington, D.C.: Department of State, September 1987. 78 pages.

SPOTLIGHT

UNITED KINGDOM

Population: 56.9 million (mid-1987 est.)
Land area: 94,212 sq.mi.
Births per 1,000 pop.: 13
Deaths per 1,000 pop.: 12
Rate of natural increase: 0.2 percent
Total fertility rate: 1.8
Infant mortality rate: 9.4 infants per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy at birth: 74 years
GNP per capita: US$8,390 (1985)
Capital: London

by C.M. Marquette

The United Kingdom (U.K.) is officially called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and specifically encompasses England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (which have respective populations of 47.1 million, 5.1 million, 2.8 million, and 1.6 million, as of 1985).

Despite a stormy history, in recent times these regions have been almost completely integrated into one encompassing national administrative and political entity (although Welsh and Scottish culture and language still thrive). Northern Ireland alone retains its own parliament and independent history of Catholic-Protestant religious strife.

The end of World War II, successive declarations of independence by colonies, and integration within the European Common Market (EEC) radically altered the U.K.'s economic and geopolitical profile. Growing domestic and socioeconomic differences, as well as generally high unemployment in all sectors, have dominated the last two decades. As colonial sources of import and export waned, the manufacturing and industrial north of England and Scotland as well as the Welsh coal mines were particularly hard hit, while the south of England rebounded with new expanding technological and service industries.

Geographically, the bulk of population is concentrated in southern England, where pastoral rolling hills abruptly segue into sprawling metropolitan areas.

The total population of Greater London of 7 million is organized into 32 independent boroughs, each with its own residential, business, and cultural area. Large cities in both the North and South have developed strong ethnically distinct pockets. It is currently estimated that 2 percent of the total population is of West Indian, Pakistani, or other foreign origin, as a result of extensive long-term immigration to Britain from excolonial and now Commonwealth countries of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean (recent government efforts have restricted these flows). In the 1980s the pressures of unemployment and adverse economic and community conditions have often ignited fires of racial tension and violence within and between such urban communities.

The U.K. has no explicit population policy. However, family planning services are provided on demand from general practitioners, clinics, and hospitals as part of the government-run Nationalized Health Service (NHS) that covers all citizens. Relaxation of the country's marriage and abortion laws in the late 1960s significantly altered both marriage and contraceptive patterns resulting in a dramatic increase in contraceptive use, abortion, and divorce, though there is currently a proposal in Parliament to put greater restrictions on abortion. The pill remains the most popular form of contraception among younger women with the use of sterilization growing among older women.

Along the Thames in London

The often overlooked ethnic diversity of Great Britain, especially in urban centers such as London, corresponds with significant subpopulation differentials in marriage and contraceptive use. The diversifying population is also reflected by diversity in general standards of living. Recent government health reports have suggested clear residential differentials in health with much higher risks of sickness or death from cardiovascular disease prevailing in the north of England where stress of unemployment, poverty and poor diet are more widespread than in the south.

Due to its low fertility and high life expectancy, Great Britain shares with other developed countries an aging population structure. This has evoked concern over the "dependency ratio" of the growing number of elderly in relation to a continually smaller, younger, working population. Specific concern exists over the country's extensive pension schemes on which more elderly will rely and to which less working people will lend support. The domestic and complex nature of this issue summarizes the shift in population concerns during recent decades in the U.K., which after a centuries-old history of consolidation is now becoming more diversified.

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